

THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

No. 7. VOL. III.]

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 15, 1817.

[VOL. I. FOR 1817.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JOEL K. MEAD, AT FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

VIEWS OF LOUISIANA.

(Concluded from page 83.)

In our last number we gave several extracts from this work, calculated to convey some general ideas of the appearance of the country and its varieties of soil, together with some of its curious peculiarities. In the notices that yet remain to be taken of it, "we shall be brief, as our manner is," as that endless haranguer, Ezekiel Daw, used to say. We never had occasion before to regret the narrowness of our limits, and the prevalence of the public taste in favor of the reports of congressional proceedings; and probably we shall never have occasion to regret them again.

The fifth chapter of the work describes the alluvial tracts on the Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, &c. and the sixth gives a very regular, and apparently excellent, account of the rivers. What shows how thoroughly he had investigated his subject, and digested the acquired information, is the table into which he has condensed all the leading points of description and connexion. In this part we were particularly struck with the spirit and sublimity with which he has painted those stupendous natural beauties, the cataracts of Missouri; and the heart-filling grandeur of the surrounding scene, which gives relief to the awfulness of their magnificence. In Lewis's Journal we remember that there was a confused idea of their appearances left on the mind, which arose from the description having been given in the order in which the narrator approached them.

The seventh chapter is occupied with the account of the animals peculiar to the country, together with its vegetable and mineral productions. The animals are the *Grizzly Bear*, the *Grosse Corne*, the *Antelope*, (not having a proper name) the *Prairie dog*, and the *Gopher*. The oddity of these is a circumstance sufficient to interest the reader. The next chapter contains a systematic account of the Indian tribes that at present occupy those regions. This subject is also digested into a table, which is included in the same chapter, and altogether displays in the fullest manner his habits of acute and careful discrimination, as well as the industry and extent of his examinations.

The ninth chapter contains only two or three pages filled with remarks on the country of Columbia and the adjacent parts on the American western coast. In the tenth (last chapter of this book) some new traits are rapidly, but strongly developed, which before were not observable, or

only caught at glimpses; and were it our object to give specimens of the author's best manner, we would choose some from this. To afford information to our readers is our object, and even for that purpose we cannot now select, lest this article should thereby be extended to an inadmissible length. The subject is American antiquities, particularly the mounds, barrows, walled towns, fortifications, and other appearances of a state of long extinguished civilization. Here is a wide field for curiosity and ingenuity to expatiate; but the darkest, wildest wilderness that poor lost traveller ever trod, notwithstanding the hundred dubious lights that cheerless, endless, hopeless, conjecture has hung athwart the way. We had often remarked in the descriptions which preceded this, the influence of a painter's eye and graphic studies, in the facility and precision with which the general character of the scenes was given—in the knowledge of picturesque effect, or an appreciation of the results of simplicity in variety, and contrast in combination, independent of the imposing power of natural beauties: here we find something of a higher or more poetic character—not only a taste true to nature, but feelings strongly excitable by the operations of his own free and warm imagination.

The second book recommences the topographical descriptions of such parts of Missouri Territory as were necessary to make up the detail omitted in the preceding general sketch. This is followed by accounts of the "political divisions, inhabitants, population, towns and villages, character of the ancient inhabitants, change of government." To this he adds some remarks on the American climate generally, compared with that of the Missouri; and the difference of their productions. The lead mines of St. Genevieve afford the subject of a very valuable chapter; and this book, like the first, concludes with the pictures of whatever amongst the antiquities or novelties of the scenes had been before glanced over. Here are views of the American bottom, as it is termed, and its mounds before noticed—Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Prairie du Roche, the site of St. Phillip, and the venerable, picturesque ruins of Fort de Chartres; and the still more odd, interesting, and repulsive peculiarities of the monks of La Trappe; whose monastery is situated a few miles below St. Roche. Amongst those ever silent and sad, contemptible, yet pitiable victims of a superstitious enmity to nature, the scene is relieved by the "drollery of the mulatto lad with one leg," who endeavored, by his gesticulations, to elicit a smile. "It was,"

says the author, "a faint watery gleam of sunshine which broke through the surrounding gloom."

"One poor fellow, ten or twelve years of age, attracted my attention and pity. He was seated by a stove, making strokes on a slate, and appeared to have just risen from the bed of sickness, or rather from the tomb. Emaciated to the last extreme, his face was pale, cold and bloodless, his lips purpled, his sunken eye marked by a livid streak, and his countenance everspread with a listless stillness. Had it not been for the feeble motion of his hand as he drew it over the slate, and the occasional raising of his heavy and languid eyelid, I could have believed that the tenant of this sad and melancholy ruin had gone to seek a happier abode. Alas! poor lone creature, thou hast no mother, no sister, to watch over thee with the tenderness and solicitude which none but a mother or sister can feel!"

The book concludes with a brief notice of the removal to the American wilds of this singular and frightfully austere institution, from Perche in France, where it was founded in 1140 by Rotrou of Perche, and modified into its extreme of severity in 1664 by the once gay Abbe Rance.

The third and last book is imperfect, as it contains only two chapters, and those relative to the new important State of Louisiana; with an additional essay on the subject of the Mississippi crevasse which occurred during the summer of 1816.

The work is dedicated to his excellency the Chevalier Jose Correa, de Serra, (minister of the king of Brazil) who is recognized, and we believe justly, as "the most enlightened foreigner that has ever visited the United States."

It may be proper to remark that Mr. Brackenridge visited and examined nearly all the country that he describes, and admitted for the rest, statements only of the most credible persons. The authenticity of the work is sufficiently established by the fact, that the substance of it was first published in newspapers, and circulated through the country to which it related. In point of style there is general purity, but great inequality: those passages that are written with care, and with the feelings awake, (*con amore* as it is termed) are smooth, graceful, spirited and original; but the parts that contain mere narrative, and common description, are far from being so happily executed. The work, take it in all, shows not a sustained effort, but rather the off-flowerings of an ardent, lively mind, possessing great versatility of powers and variety of attainments: and capable, at least, of great occasional vigor of exertion.

HISTORY OF THE LATE WAR,
By H. M. Brackenridge, Esq. Published by Joseph
Cushing, Baltimore.

As we have already made our random remarks, in regard to the qualifications which this writer

displays, it is unnecessary to notice any thing here but the particular manner in which the work before us is executed. And here, though he claims our high approbation, we cannot but regret that the whole work is not such as, judging from certain parts, we must believe him capable of producing. The arrangement of such materials as he had to manage was, no doubt, a labour of extreme difficulty, requiring a clear, orderly mind; and in that he has succeeded admirably, we could almost venture to say, perfectly; but in the detail there is not that elegance which, with little effort of mind, he evidently could have given. The other works which we have had on this subject followed nearly the original chronological order of the incidents, showing as much disregard as a daily gazette to the clearness and beauty naturally resulting, as in his work, from the collocation of events and circumstances in the order which their connection and mutuality of explanation required. We can hardly, in such things, appreciate too highly this attention to the first law of nature: or judge too favourably of the mind that surmounts every obstacle which a regard for that law imposes in its course.

But in the narration of multifarious and simultaneous operations one rarely finds an arrangement of materials which involves no inconveniences or obscurities. The historian in such situations has often little else left to hold by than the horn of some dilemma. If the superior advantages of any one course were evident to any common mind the first designation of that course could hardly be a difficult task.

In the present history there is not a general separation of land and sea affairs, such as some others have made; that is an artless, uninteresting method; Mr. Brackenridge has placed together the incidents of each cruize, and sometimes of two or three cruizes of different vessels; and also, in their own regular and naturally successive chapters, the operations of a whole campaign; or sometimes of a portion of a campaign, according as was necessary in order to give scenick unity to his descriptions.

The spirit of the work is purely American; not the hot and headstrong spirit of a party devotee, but the magnanimous spirit which can award to enemies and rivals whatever praise they may have merited. The political measures connected with the war are regularly delineated, and some of the questions of public dispute are discussed, very briefly and forcibly. His characters seem to be generally well drawn, and the effect produced by the succession of narration, portraiture, description, disquisition, and reflection, is calculated at once to allow relaxation to the mind and increase with its progress the interest of the story.

SHOOTING.

Having noticed in the newspapers an anecdote about the sharp shooting of Colonel Forsythe's riflemen, we are tempted to give another about sharp shooting, which General Carroll told us had happened at New-Orleans, within his own observation—not the best of the kind, perhaps, but it has never been published, and we consider it characteristic of the nation.

On the never to be forgotten eighth of January, a great number of the British soldiers lay down among the dead when their army was defeated; & many continued in that situation during the day; some, however, who were near the American lines, rose & surrendered themselves, & some at a distance rose and ran away. Those who thus attempted to escape had to encounter the risk of a few shots from our side; so that it became a matter of calculation with many to determine whether they had what was called fair running distance. One who lay above a hundred yards from our lines judged himself safe for a race, and rose to make the experiment. A Tennessee volunteer raised his rifle to bring the fugitive down again, but another held his arm, and exclaimed—"Oh, damn it, Jack, don't kill the poor fellow—stop, I'll just put a ball in his leg, and then we can have him brought in safe and sound you know." Accordingly the latter shot—the soldier fell—and was afterwards carried in with his leg broken. However, he soon had it set and cured without further inconvenience.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

SITE FOR A NAVAL DEPOT.

(Concluded from page 93.)

Copy of the communication made by Captain David Porter, commissioner of the navy, in relation to a Site for a naval depot, and the best means to be adopted for the defence of the Chesapeake Bay.

Navy Commissioners' Office, Dec. 27, 1816.

SIR.—In compliance with the call made by you of the 16th ult. and for the reasons set forth in the communication made to you by the board of the 24th instant, I have now the honor to send for your consideration facts, and my own opinions, in relation to the points to which you have directed the attention of the commissioners of the navy by your communication of the 7th May last.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

D. PORTER.

Hampton Roads, it is believed, could be fortified to advantage by means of batteries placed on Old Point Comfort, and on the shoal of Willoughby's Point in fifteen feet water, and the distance between batteries so placed need not be more than one mile and a quarter. But until a fair experiment has been made as to the expense of erecting them—the effect of the latter on the shoals and channels, and whether it could resist the violence of the waves to which it would ne-

cessarily be exposed, I should not deem it advisable to undertake to defend the Chesapeake by erecting a line of batteries across the mouth of the bay, as by so doing the risk would be incurred of expending uselessly many millions of dollars, of choking up the channel on one side, and of changing the navigation to the other, by obstructing the waters, and thereby causing them to ebb and flow in larger quantities and with greater rapidity on the north side of the mouth of the bay, clearing away a passage for the largest ships, by the removal of the light and almost floating sand on that side of the Middle Ground, where a safe and convenient channel already exists for vessels drawing sixteen feet water. A failure in the completion, or the ultimate destruction of the blocks, or islands which must be sunk in the channel for the purpose of erecting such batteries, would create dangerous shoals,[†] and if perfect success should be obtained in the erection, it is quite problematical whether they would succeed at all times, and under all circumstances, in preventing the passage of a hostile fleet, or of securing to themselves the necessary supplies of provisions and water when invaded by a powerful force. Therefore, for an uncertain object, I should consider it unadvisable to risk the destruction or injury of the present channel into the Chesapeake, and the opening of another that would require equal means to defend.

If Hampton Roads can be fortified, the Chesapeake Bay, in my opinion, (which I submit with due deference) could be best protected by a moveable force, that can seek the protection of batteries placed there and at York river. The chart (not yet completed) of the survey made under the superintendence of the commissioners, and the report of the surveying officer, will place you in possession of the distances, depths of water, and other facts that have produced this opinion, as well as of the information required by the examination of "Hampton Roads up to Norfolk." It therefore only remains for me to give my opinion as to the latter place for a naval depot. A want of sufficient depth of water, at all times, for the easy ingress and egress of the largest ships, I have always considered a strong objection to Norfolk as a great naval depot. The objection does not, however, exist to the extent I supposed. The minute examination which has lately been made, discovers more water over the flats below Craney Island than was ever before found; but yet not of sufficient depth to float, at all times, ships of the largest class, with their provisions, water, and guns on board. Added to which, the channel is narrow, difficult to be found, and never to be passed, by ships of war, with a head wind. Under these circumstances, I can see no cause for changing the opinion formerly entertained; and will now add, that if a higher perfection in our naval architecture, or the increased size of our ships should render a greater draught of water necessary, and our ships are not to be put into a state for service until their arrival in Hampton Roads; if they are then to receive their guns, their provisions, and their stores from the naval depot—if Hampton Roads, instead of affording protection to the whole Chesapeake, is to answer only the purpose of protecting our inoffensive ships, the main object of a naval depot at the mouth of the Chesapeake will

[†] Engineers say it would require 9 batteries, mounting from 100 to 150 guns each, to defend the passage between Old Point Comfort and the Middle Ground.

be defeated, and the objections to Norfolk proportionably increased.

How far the fortifications of Hampton Roads may justify ships' dropping down there in a defenseless state will depend on experiments yet to be made, and on the extent of those experiments. It is now doubted whether one of our largest ships, under the most favorable circumstances, could steer through the narrow and crooked drain, which forms the channel over the flats, without grounding. The means, however, of determining this point are fortunately at hand, and it would not be difficult to make the trial. York river opposes no obstacles to the passage of the largest ships as high up as the Clay Banks, which appears to be the most suitable place on that stream for a navy yard. It offers advantages in streams of water for labor-saving purposes, and may be protected from maritime attack by batteries placed at York and Gloucester points, and near the channel on the Oyster Shoals above, (which are bare at low water) as well as on the shoalest part of York spit; and the passage of an enemy may be retarded by means of booms, and other obstructions. The climate is said to be subject to the same diseases as those which prevail at Norfolk; and it is said to be liable to attack from Severn river. It has, however, this advantage over Norfolk, (in addition to its depth of water) that ships can go to sea with most winds with which they leave the place named as most suitable for a naval depot. Captain Sinclair's reports and survey of York river will afford you further information on this subject. The Tangier Islands were surveyed by Captain R. T. Spence—to that survey, and the report which accompanies it, I beg leave to refer you for all the information I possess respecting them.

Commodore Rodgers and myself, on our passage down the Potomac, in conformity with your instructions, touched in at St. Mary's, which is situated near its mouth. In point of healthiness of situation, security from maritime attack, and (I am informed) from ice, excellence of harbor, and the easy ingress and egress to an inner harbor, at all times, to ships drawing not more than twenty-four feet and a half of water, the advantages it offers by means of streams of water for labor-saving purposes, and its convenience to forests of fine timber, St. Mary's is, in my opinion, superior to any other place of which I have a knowledge on the Chesapeake for a naval depot.

How far its distance from the sea, and the necessity for concentrating a land force for its protection from an enemy (which may attack it from the Patuxent) may weigh against these advantages, or whether it may be considered a disadvantage to have so concentrated, in a healthy situation, a force which may easily be transported for the protection of other important points, or, in fine, (taking into consideration its central position, and the speed with which vessels may get to sea with a favorable wind, through both channels of the Chesapeake) whether such objections should be considered disadvantages, I beg leave to submit to the decision of government: they involve military questions of which I am not a competent judge. I shall merely observe, firstly, that whatever objections may be made to the distance of St. Mary's from the ocean, when we measure the sinuosities of the channel, we shall find the objection nearly as strong to Norfolk. And when we take into estimation the time required to sail this

distance, we shall find the comparison much in favor of St. Mary's: and, secondly, that whatever objection may be made to the assemblage of a military force for the protection of St. Mary's, still stronger objections might be made to their assemblage from the distant parts of Virginia, for the defense of Norfolk. And the same remark may apply to York. Norfolk has owed its protection to troops drawn from Richmond, which was thereby left exposed to attack. St. Mary's would be guarded by those from Baltimore and Washington, and placed in the most favorable situation to enable them to aid in their defence, as well as that of Richmond. The establishment of a naval depot at St. Mary's is not incompatible with the plan suggested for protecting the Chesapeake by means of a moveable force that shall seek the protection of batteries at Hampton Roads and York river. The protection of St. Mary's would depend greatly on that force, and the destruction of the naval depot, established there, would require a force (in addition to the one left to watch our fleet) proportioned to the protecting force stationed at St. Mary's, for it is not usual or prudent to leave an enemy unguarded in the rear, when he may be in a situation to avail himself of the advantages which a defeat might offer.

A superior enemy's fleet which could (by placing itself between the naval depot and St. Mary's, and our naval rendezvous at Hampton Roads) cut off all communication between them, could, by blockade, render both fleet and depot equally useless, was the latter at Norfolk. The command of our own waters (the object for defending the mouth of the Chesapeake) would secure to us an easy communication between our fleet and depot. And if this superiority is not to be obtained, our naval depot, placed wherever it may be, will not answer the end for which it was intended.

A naval depot at St. Mary's would afford a safe and commodious winter retreat for our fleets, which experience has taught me cannot be found in Hampton Roads, and which I have reason to believe cannot be found in York river. It would, from its central and convenient situation, afford protection and convoy to the commerce of the whole bay, even were its mouth blockaded by an enemy's fleet; an advantage which could not be afforded by York or Norfolk. It would serve as a rendezvous for the light cruisers from Baltimore, where they could easily elude an enemy's blockading fleet by availing themselves of the choice of channels; an advantage which York does not possess in so great a degree, and one of which Norfolk has been found to be entirely destitute. The blockade of the mouth of the Chesapeake would constitute the blockade of Hampton Roads; consequently the supplies of the naval depot, placed there, would be limited to those received by the canals, and by the waters discharging themselves into Hampton Roads: while the whole resources of the Chesapeake, and its tributary streams, as well as those which may be afforded by the projected canals connecting its waters with the Delaware, will be open to St. Mary's.

A military force stationed at St. Mary's can aid in the defence of every part of the bay exposed to attack, while such aid has never been found in the force stationed at Norfolk, nor is it believed it would in any stationed at York. And, finally, if the experiment of fortifying Hampton Roads should not succeed, a naval force that can issue from St. Mary's, would not be less formidable, nor

afford less protection to the Chesapeake than one stationed there or at York.

In closing these remarks, allow me to observe that I should regret extremely that any difference of opinion existed as to the most suitable point for establishing a naval depot, were I not persuaded that this difference will be the means of placing you in possession of the best information as to the merits and defects of the places under examination. And I am happy to have it in my power to say, that there appears to be but one opinion among the commissioners as to the necessity of such an establishment somewhere on the waters of the Chesapeake. Reasons of a political nature which may weigh for or against the particular spot to be selected for a naval depot, I leave to politicians; unbiased by local interests or local prejudices, I have given my opinion solely in regard to the utility of such an establishment. I give them with deference; but with a perfect conviction, in my own mind, of the correctness of the position, that the defence of the Chesapeake, and the utility of a naval depot on its waters, will depend more on the conveniences and resources it can furnish, than the position of the depot. A naval depot is the source whence all the members receive their supplies and vigor to defend, not any particular spot or place, but the whole body corporate—not for the advantage of any particular section, but for that of the whole Union.

D. PORTER.

Copy of a letter from Captain A. Sinclair to Commodore John Rodgers, President of the Navy Board, dated York River, March 22d, 1816.

Sir,—I sailed and arrived in York river the day my last letter left Norfolk for you, and agreeably to your instructions of the 26th ult. I take the earliest opportunity to inform you of my proceedings here.

I have traced the river up and down several times, and find there is not water enough for ships of the largest class to ascend higher than five or six miles above what is called the Clay Banks, which lay in Gloucester county, and about fifteen miles below West Point. The report of the officers I had sent over to ascertain what distance four fathoms could be carried up, and who reported that they carried that depth all the way to West Point, was extremely erroneous. The confluence of the Portopotank creek with this river has thrown an extensive mud flat entirely across the channel, on which there is not more than twenty feet water; between that and where it commences shoaling again, about four miles below West Point, there is quarter four fathoms, and from thence to West Point three fathoms is the extent of what can be carried. So that the want of a sufficient depth of water places that highly eligible site, in every other respect, entirely out of the question for a navy yard. Yorktown labors under too many disadvantages to be thought of as a dock yard. In the first place, its exposed situation on both sides to the attack of an enemy, who may have the ascendancy in our waters. Secondly, its great exposure to easterly gales, and the great difficulty there will be in getting piers to stand, owing to the sandy foundation, strong current, and high sea which heaves in from the eastward. Thirdly, there is no stream by which labor-saving machines may be worked, or the docking of ships be aided: and, lastly, it is one of the poorest countries in the world, in every respect,

being totally destitute of timber, even for fuel, except miserable pine.

I should not have mentioned any spot *as not being* calculated for the above purpose, but for the general opinion which prevails among the intelligent part of the community in this quarter of the country, that Yorktown is eminently calculated for a naval establishment, and that such an opinion has gained belief abroad.

I have fixed on a site in Gloucester county, just nine and a half miles above Yorktown, which holds out many more advantages than any other on the river: indeed, there is not another above York, that the distance of the channel from the shore does not counterbalance all other advantages they may possess; and this is infinitely further from deep water than it ought to be—the nearest point being four hundred yards. This, however, is the greatest disadvantage attending it. It ebbs dry three fourths of the distance, leaving a fine, firm foundation, and from two feet water it is very abrupt into four fathoms at low water. There is an abundance of timber at hand for piling, filling in, &c.; and the land, from high water, rises gradually in the distance of 150 yards to thirty feet in height, affording as much earth as may be required for filling to the channel.

This site is bordered on the east by Aberdeen creek, and on the west by Jones's creek, either of which affords an abundance of water for all our purposes; but the country generally is so low, that I am fearful the water dare not be raised entirely high enough for docking; what it leaves, though, after taking a ship in, may be easily pumped out by pumps worked by water. There are several good mill streams emptying into those creeks, which flow from a source sufficiently high to answer the purpose of docking, if the adjacent land would admit of its being dammed. The mouths of those two creeks are two miles apart, but before they flow half a mile, there are two branches approaching each other within a quarter of a mile, where, after the creeks are dammed below, a canal might be cut which would insulate the place, and add greatly to its security in the rear; indeed, it appears to be very capable of being defended by a moderately small force. The channel does not exceed a quarter of a mile in width, and is overlooked by an eminence of thirty feet for a mile or two below. The country is said to be healthy; indeed, judging from its inhabitants, I should pronounce it so. The land is generally fine and well timbered with white oak, yellow and pitch pine, and some cedar, though not in abundance. The county of Matthews can supply a number of excellent ship carpenters, who would, no doubt, flock to such an establishment. The wind from N. to W. S. W. will take a ship to sea; the channel is generally narrow, but very plain, and quite deep enough for the heaviest ships completely equipped for sea. I have made a very minute survey of all the land laying between those two creeks as far back as where I purposed a canal should be cut for security against an enemy, and shall forward a plat of it as soon as I can copy it upon a large scale. It can be purchased (that is as much as the government may require) for whatever disinterested persons may value it at, which will not exceed from ten to twenty dollars the acre.

With the plat I shall send you a proper description of it, with the advantages, disadvantages, &c. attending it. I have made as much progress as

the weather has admitted of, which has been extremely boisterous and inclement. To be as accurate as I wish to be, I ought to have another vessel, as it is almost impossible to sight an object from a base line on shore, the distance being about three leagues to the end of the Spit. I regret, too, that I have not some intelligent young officers, as I could not procure a good draftsman at Norfolk, and have to perform all that work myself. The aid of officers of some science, whom I could trust to take angles, &c. would relieve me very much.

The soil about the above site is well calculated for making bricks, which may be contracted for, for about 5 or 6 dollars the thousand. Shells for lime may be had at from three and a half to four dollars the hundred bushels; wood at three dollars per cord. I shall be more minute in my description of this place, attending to the width of the river, width and depth of channel, strength of tide, with its perpendicular rise, exposure to ice, winds, enemy, &c. Should you wish any particular information that I may not probably embrace, you will be good enough to let me know, that I may be prepared to answer it.

Very respectfully, sir, I remain
Your obedient servant,

A. SINCLAIR.

*Commodore John Rodgers, President
of the Board of Navy Commissioners,
Washington.*

*Copy of a letter from Captain Arthur Sinclair to
Commodore John Rodgers, President of the Navy
Board, dated York River, March 29, 1816.*

Sir.—I wrote you on the 22d inst. informing you of my having fixed on a site for a navy yard, which held out more advantages than any other on this river, and that it was not free from its disadvantages; namely, the channel being too great a distance from the shore, and the river straight, wide, and bleak; but the channel being very narrow, and the remainder of the river quite shoal for eight or ten miles up and down, there is not much sea made from any wind. It would be exposed to ice if there were any afloat, but there has not been a sufficient quantity known in this river, from which danger might be apprehended, for upwards of thirty years; and should it be deemed prudent to guard against it, it will be seen from the accompanying plot, which is a rough draft of a *minute* and *critically correct survey*, that it may be easily effected; the rise and fall of the tide not exceeding three feet on an average, the current is very trifling, seldom exceeding two knots.

This site, as I have before mentioned, is situated in Gloucester county, nine and a half miles above York, which lays six and a half miles from the mouth of the river, making the whole distance from it to Cape Henry about 49 miles.

I have brought the survey a little below York, and find five and a half fathoms the least water there is, at low tide, between the above site and York; below that it is well known there is sufficient depth for any ship. The channel continues not more than four or five hundred yards wide for two and a half miles, when it gradually increases to a half mile in two and a half more, running S. 30° E. for that distance. It then makes a small change to S. 55° E. and widens to upwards of a mile, between that and York, from which, to the mouth of the river, the course is from S. 70° E. to east, and the channel increasing to upwards of a

mile in width. Agreeably to your letter of instruction, which requires a survey to be made so as to embrace the approach from the sea and the channels now known to afford navigation for line of battle ships, I might stop this survey at York; but believing an accurate chart of this river to the bay channel will be acceptable to the board of commissioners, and more particularly so should they approve of the site I have selected, I shall endeavor to continue to that point, should I find it practicable with the means in my power.

I have found infinite difficulty in making the survey, but more particularly in laying down the channel, having had a great deal of bad weather, frequently driving us eight or ten miles from our work to make a harbor, so that when a good day would offer, we would lose most of it in regaining our station. And not having men enough to man more than one boat, I have found almost insuperable difficulties in taking the soundings and shifting the buoys from station to station, being compelled, for the want of a second vessel, to use four buoys, and to make frequent references to the land for base lines to correct the work. Neat drafting is not to be performed on board such a boat as this: the want of room and stability precludes the possibility of it. I shall, of course, have to copy them when I return to Norfolk. I have not, as yet, been able to find a draftsman who can draw more neatly than myself: the engineer I have had, and whom I have now discharged, being a man of science without possessing the talent of neat drawing. I shall endeavor to procure one in Norfolk if possible, but in case of my not succeeding, I can only promise you accuracy without much neatness.

I have the honor to remain,
With high respect, sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. SINCLAIR.

*Commodore John Rodgers,
President of the Board of
Navy Commissioners, Washington.*

*Letter from Captain Robert Spence, dated May 26th
1816, in relation to the Tangier Islands.*

Sir, The islands known by the name of the Tangier Islands having hitherto been very fallaciously represented, especially during the late war, when, from the circumstance of their having been a rendezvous for British marauders, and a depository for their stolen negroes, it became necessary to throw up temporary buildings for shelter and breastworks to secure them from surprise. These sheds were represented as highly commodious, and their works of defence, consisting of embankments of sand partially sodded to render them less mutable than they otherwise would have been, were magnified by the exaggerated fancy of the timid, into regular fortifications, mounting heavy cannon calculated to protect the island, and to give security to the shipping anchored in the sound. It was understood that an abundance of good water was afforded, and their gardens, described to be in a high state of cultivation, were spoken of as furnishing a sufficiency of vegetables for refreshment and for health. All these partial and delusive accounts were believed by many who had not the means of being better informed, and by others who were wholly indifferent to the fact. Having, in compliance with an order from the board of commissioners, explored, and, from accurate surveys,

obtained correct charts of the islands, I spared no pains to inform myself on such points as my instructions particularly called my attention to, as

1st. The relative situation of these islands to each other, their distance from each other, and from the main.

2d. The length and breadth of each.

3d. The topography of each.

4th. The channel on all sides, and those leading to each island and separating them.

5th. The particular positions occupied by the British during the late war, and the works constructed by them.

6th. How far they are, at this time, defensible, and what works would render them completely so.

7th. The harbors afforded by these islands.

8th. Whether they afforded good fresh water in abundance.

9th. Whether they afford a good site for a naval establishment and rendezvous in time of war.

10th. The soundings at least three miles on all sides, that it may be seen how near a first rate ship of war can safely approach them at every point, especially at that point which may be judged the best for a naval establishment. The charts I have prepared and transmit to the board, having been executed with attention, are sufficiently minute to furnish full information upon all these particulars. They afford a kind of graphical report, exhibiting at one view the relative position of the islands; their distance from each other; their length and breadth; their topography; the particular positions occupied by the British during the late war, and that of the works constructed by them; the harbors afforded by the islands, as also, the soundings on all sides, even beyond the distance prescribed by the commissioners. It therefore only remains for me to offer a brief general account, and a few remarks on such points upon which the charts cannot be alone satisfactory.

The Tangier Islands, if islands they may be called, situated about eight miles from the main, are nothing more than banks of sand, which are here and there interspersed with an upper stratum of soil, owing its original formation to seaweed and other marine productions, deposited by inundations, to which, in strong easterly winds, the islands are wholly subject, save here and there a small spot, elevated for the purpose of cultivation and occupied by the possessor. That section of the islands on which the British formed their establishments, is a level surface of white sand, the margin of which, though not more than three feet in height, is higher than the area it surrounds, in which the British had their hospitals, store-houses, their stolen Negroes, grave-yards, and works of defence—of which there is nothing remaining, save memorials of death, and attestations of the deleterious effect of the water. The strength of their defences may readily be conjectured from the materials of which they were composed, and from their forms, which are in some places entire, while the outlines are distinctly visible. They consisted of semicircular embankments, constructed of stakes driven equidistant into the foundation, interwoven with brush, and filled in with sand; the formation of which gave constant employment to an immense number of negroes they had collected from different parts of the Chesapeake. On these works a few small guns were mounted, but of what calibre, I could not, with any certainty, ascertain. On abandoning the island, the whole was conflagrated, and as the brush consumed, the

sand returned, more or less, to its former level.—Notwithstanding enough has been explained to establish the futility of attempting an establishment at such a place as the "Tangiers," there still remains other objections more cogent and less remediable. A want of fresh water is here, during the summer months, severely experienced. Wells formed by the insertion of barrels of extra length, (being from the nature of the ground but few) afford at particular periods a scanty supply, the saline impregnation of which must produce, with those not accustomed from infancy to its use, that destructive disease which daily robbed his Britannic majesty of nine or ten of his loyal subjects. This mortality, it was said, had determined the commanding admiral to abandon, at the ensuing season, a spot not only subject to dangerous inundations, but to which a want of water and other causes had given more the appearance of a hospital, than a naval rendezvous.

Waving, however, these objections, and admit, for a moment, that it is both defensible and tenable, would the advantages resulting from an establishment thus situated, prove of such magnitude as a transient view of the subject might at first promise? cut off in time of war from all communication with government, and from resources essential to its preservation, could it be productive of benefits proportioned to the expenditure attending its creation? As the day is rapidly approaching when the entire defence of the entrance of the Chesapeake will render other places within its bosom more eligible for a naval rendezvous, an establishment of this description on the Tangiers would then, it is probable, be speedily abandoned for sites in every respect better suited, both in time of peace or war, for the equipment of our public vessels, and for other purposes necessarily connected therewith.

While a superior maritime force has uninterrupted access to the Chesapeake, an establishment, either naval or military, at the Tangiers, cut off from assistance and supplies, would be wholly insecure, and exposed to inevitable reduction by an enemy possessing means of attack commensurate with the object to be effected. With this view of the subject I have, perhaps been too prolix in my comments; if so, I plead the injunction contained in my instructions, "to make such general and particular remarks as might occur," this, and my desire to be satisfactory, I offer as my apology.

I have the honor to remain,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. SPENCE.

Commodore John Rodgers,

President of the board of

Navy Commissioners.

Document A. No. 3, accompanying chart A. referred to in the report of the Secretary of the Navy, communicating information relative to a site for a Naval Depot.

WASHINGTON, NOV. 21, 1816.

SIR,—in compliance with your order and instructions, I have the honour to submit the following observations on the defence of Chesapeake Bay together with the enclosed map and sketches—the first being the result of various examinations made by major Kearney and myself—the latter, some outlines of my views on this subject.

Whatever may be the importance of founding permanent fortifications to exclude an enemy from

the waters of the Chesapeake, it does not appear from attentive examination, that the entrance or mouth of that bay, (viz. a line from the nearest part of a shoal called the Middle Ground, to Cape Henry,) affords the most practicable positions, as the violent action of the Atlantic during gales of wind, and the great depth of water, will render any attempt to establish permanent foundations on that line, extremely slow in the execution, and, if ever effected, of uncertain durability, independent of an expense which the most sanguine could scarcely deem justifiable.

The next position of importance is Hampton Roads. A regular fortification on Old Point Comfort, and a castle on the nearest part of Willoughby's shoal, called the Rip-rap, distance 1,800 yards, might, with the aid of a well organized flotilla, not only cover James and Elizabeth rivers from the attempts of a superior naval enemy, but the latter would also threaten the rear of an armament that would pass up the bay. This position would also present the most prompt support to our marine, whether in reconnoitring an enemy, whose movements may be observed from thence to the Atlantic, while protected by the batteries, or finding that protection on returning to a port, scarcely fifteen miles from Cape Henry.

In the event of fortifying the pass between Old Point Comfort and Willoughby's Shoal, several positions near the margin of Lynnhaven Bay may be advantageously occupied by small insulated towers of masonry, carrying one twenty-four pounder each, and at such distances from the shore as will secure them from the effect of grape and case shot; and as this bay would then be the only place near the mouth of the Chesapeake that a superior naval enemy could occupy with effect, the towers previously recommended would not only annoy, but deprive them of the principal advantages which the position would otherwise afford. One or two towers of the same kind would also prove important in the vicinity of Cape Charles.

Having thus stated an opinion that Hampton Roads, from its proximity to the Atlantic, combines many superior advantages, and, if fortified, will constitute an important part of the general defences of the Chesapeake, and singly will serve to check the incursions of an enemy, it will, I presume, be superfluous to particularize the positions which are more remote from the mouth of the Chesapeake that may be occupied for local defences, as almost every site of the description is already fortified where objects of sufficient importance and the existing population warrant their establishment.

As the total exclusion of an enemy from the waters of the Chesapeake is an object of great and increasing importance, and the obstacles having been already noted, which will probably prevent the prosecution of such a design in the establishment of permanent and efficient defences at its entrance, in conformity with the spirit of my instructions I subjoin an opinion on a more practicable position.

By referring to the enclosed map, and sections C. D. E. F. it may be observed that the distance and depth of water between the extremity of the Horse-Shoe and Middle Ground, is less than between the latter and Cape Henry, the bottom being also, at every place of trial, firm and free from quicksand, and as that line is also less exposed to the action of the water in particular winds, there can be but little doubt of its being the only posi-

tion near the entrance of the Chesapeake that could justify any attempt to establish permanent defences, or that might promise, in conjunction with the works proposed and naval co-operation, to afford general protection and security.

Should this idea be deemed worthy of serious attention, the proposed castle on Willoughby's Shoal may be erected in the first instance; and if, upon the test of time and military investigation, it should be found substantial and effective, sound and ample data would be thus afforded for the construction of similar towers, nine in number, on the line previously mentioned, viz. from the extremity of the Horse Shoe to the Middle Ground, and would not only test the principle but also the relative expense.

The expense of erecting works of masonry near the entrance of the Chesapeake will be considerably augmented in consequence of the distance from the principal materials, viz. lime and stones, the following general estimate, calculated on the prices of the present year, will not, I presume, vary considerably from the truth:

A regular castle mated pentagon, mounting 150 pieces of cannon and mortars, on Old Point Comfort,	\$ 250,000
A quadrangular castle of masonry, four tiers of cannon, mounting 128 guns, on Willoughby's Shoal,	\$ 209,000
Five small towers on the margin of Lynnhaven Bay, and near Cape Charles,	\$ 50,000
	<hr/> \$ 509,000

The two works above mentioned could keep up an effectual cross fire of 75 heavy pieces of cannon and mortars, on any vessel attempting the pass, for the space of 25 minutes in time, allowing that the vessel should sail at the rate of between 8 and 9 miles per hour.

As there are various opinions on passing batteries in vessels of war, it may be proper to offer an observation on that subject; and it may be safely inferred, from the result of many naval conflicts, that vessels of equal armament may maintain a close action for 15 minutes or more, without being entirely disabled from making sail, or changing positions. With this fact it can scarcely be doubted that vessels of war may often pass batteries without being destroyed, or irreparably injured. The risk, however, of such attempts is greatly multiplied when passing under a well directed cross fire of hot shot, carcasses, and shells, and which must be encountered again in the event of an unsuccessful enterprise.

It has also been a received opinion, in reasoning upon the comparative powers of land batteries, (in commanding positions) and the batteries of vessels of war, that six 24 pounders in the former, when well directed, are superior to the broadside of a 44 gun frigate, and that double that number of guns, of larger calibre are superior to the broadside of a 74 gun ship, provided the land batteries are so placed as not to admit the approach of vessels within the effective range of grape and case shot.

The latter observations are presented with due consideration, and may either be confirmed or rejected, by an appeal to the distinguished naval gentlemen with whom I had the honour to be associated, and from whom major Kearney and myself received every civility and assistance.

The preceding statement has been condensed from a variety of notes, observations, and calculations, which will also afford, in the event of fortifying any of the positions previously named, a description more in detail, together with appropriate plans for the construction.

Full sensible of the honor conferred in your order of the 31st of May last, I remain,

With the greatest respect,

Your most obedient and humble servant,
(Signed) GEO: BOMFORD,
Lieut. Col. of Ordnance.

NEW-YORK.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

GENTLEMEN.—In my last public communication to the legislature, I had the honor to advert to the present happy condition of our country, and to intimate that the existing state of society, and the general disposition of mankind, seemed propitious to the promotion of the interests of literature, religion, freedom and humanity.

I will now take the liberty of submitting to the legislature, whether the dictates of humanity, the reputation of the State, and a just sense of gratitude to the Almighty for the many favors he has conferred on us as a nation, do not demand that the reproach of slavery be expunged from our statute book.

No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men, more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."

The same divine munificence which called forth this effusion of gratitude from the father of his country, twenty-seven years ago, has been equally, if not more conspicuous, in every subsequent stage of our advancement in prosperity and renown. What more acceptable return can a grateful and enlightened people make to the heavenly Donor of these so great benefits, than by emancipating from bitter servitude that portion of His creatures which still continue to be held in unjust and cruel bondage by civilized and independent freemen.

I do, therefore, respectfully, but earnestly, recommend to the legislature to establish some future day, not more remote than the fourth day of July, 1827, on which slavery shall cease within this State. Before the arrival of that period, most colored persons born previously to the 4th of July, 1799, (and all others are now free by the existing laws) will have become of very little value to their owners. Indeed, many of them will by that time have become an expensive burden.

To fix a day thus remote for general emancipation, will consequently impair in a very small degree any private right, and will, at the same time, be consistent with the humanity and justice of a free and prosperous people.

DANIEL D. TOMPKINS.

Albany, Jan. 28, 1817.

NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

Wednesday, Feb. 5.—Mr. Williams, from the committee appointed on that subject, reported a bill to provide for the purchase and distribution

of the laws of the United States; which passed to a second reading.

Mr. Roberts, from the committee of claims, reported a bill authorizing a subscription for an additional volume of the laws of the United States; which bills respectively passed to a second reading.

The following motions, submitted by Mr. Tichenor yesterday, were taken up and agreed to:

Resolved, That the military committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing or modifying so much of the second section of the act establishing the military staff, as relates to hospital surgeons and hospital surgeons' mates.

Resolved, That the military committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of a reform in the provisions of the laws respecting the allowance and pay of private servants to the military and staff officers of the army, in order to place them on a more economical establishment.

The bill to incorporate the Columbian Institute was read the second time.

The engrossed bill to appoint additional pension agents; to amend and explain the act giving pensions to orphans and widows of persons slain in the public or private armed vessels of the United States, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the claims law, amended the same, (not materially) and postponed some other bills till to-morrow.

And the Senate adjourned.

Thursday, Feb. 6.—The bill authorizing a subscription for an additional volume of the laws of the United States, and a bill to provide for the purchase and distribution of the laws of the United States, were read a second time.

The engrossed bill to provide for the punishment of crimes and offences committed within the Indian boundaries, having been read a third time, was, on motion of Mr. Daggett, recommitted to the judiciary committee.

The bill directing the discharge of Lewis Olmsted from imprisonment, was read a third time, and sent to the other House.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill respecting persons escaping from the service of their masters. Mr. Smith having proposed some amendments to it, the bill was postponed to Monday.

Some other public and executive business was done.

Friday, Feb. 7.—Two messages were received from the President of the United States—the one noticed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives; the other transmitting, in compliance with a request of the Senate, information touching the execution of so much of the treaty of peace with Great Britain, as relates to the delivery of slaves.

Mr. Ruggles, of Ohio, presented certain instructions received by him from the legislature of Ohio, to use his exertions to procure the passage of a law of Congress, giving to the inhabitants of the United States' reservation of Lower Sandusky, pre-emption right to parts thereof, &c. Objections having been made to the reading of instructions for the information of the Senate, the question was taken on reading it, and decided in the negative.

Mr. Wilson thereupon submitted for consideration the following resolution:

"That the Senate deem it inexpedient that instructions from a State legislature to the Senator,

from such State, shall be received and filed in the Senate."

The bill to amend the claims law of last session, was again taken up, discussed and amended.

Mr. Daggett moved to strike out the first section of the bill, (in effect to reject it) which motion was decided as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Ashmun, Barbour, Brown, Daggett, Fronentin, Goldsborough, Hanson, Hardin, Horsey, Hunter, Mason, Va., Noble, Ruggles, Talbot, Tichenor, Williams.—16.

NAYS—Messrs. Campbell, Chace, Condit, Gaillard, Howell, Lacock, Macon, Mason, of N. H., Morrow, Roberts, Sanford, Smith, Tait, Taylor, Thompson, Troup, Varnum.—17.

The bill was ordered to a third reading as amended.

The bill for increasing the compensation of the messengers of the several departments was, on motion of Mr. Varnum, postponed to the 4th day of March next [rejected].

The bill for better preserving the neutral relations of the United States, came up, but was, with several other bills, postponed to Monday.

Mr. Morrow reported a bill making reservation of certain public lands to supply timber for naval purposes; which was read.

Tuesday, Feb. 11.—The following resolution, yesterday submitted by Mr. Ruggles, was taken up and agreed to:

Resolved, That the committee on public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making provision by law, for granting the right of pre-emption to the inhabitants settled on the reservation at Sandusky, in the State of Ohio.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Hardin, was also agreed to:

Resolved, That the committee on the post-office and post-roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post-office at, and a post-route through, the town of Bedford, in the county of Gallatin, and State of Kentucky, with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Lacock, was also agreed to:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before the Senate,

1st. The number of complete rations and parts of rations issued by the commissaries of the north western army from the 1st of September, 1812, to the 31st of May, 1813.

2d. The number of rations and parts of rations issued by the contractors for the same period.

3d. The number of rations and parts of rations issued by the commissaries to said army, from the 31st of May, 1813, to the 1st of June, 1814.

4th. The number of rations and parts of rations issued by the contractors for the same period.

5th. The amount of provisions bought by the commissaries and public agents for said army for each of the periods aforesaid, the whole expense of such purchases, with the wages paid to commissaries and agents. The expense of transportation, and all incidental expenses incurred by this mode of supplying the army.

6th. The whole amount of money paid to the contractors for supplying the army for each of the periods aforesaid.

7th. The whole amount of provisions turned over by the contractors on the 1st of July, 1814, to the United States, and by the United States to other contractors within that year.

8th. The amount of money advanced in the winter of 1814 and 1815, by order of General M'Comb, at Detroit, to the commissary, for the

purpose of purchasing provisions on the allegation of an anticipated failure of the contractors. The amount of money actually paid in the purchase of such provisions, with a detailed account, as far as practicable, of the price of the different articles.

9th. The amount of the last mentioned provisions delivered to the contractors, or issued to the army, particularizing in each case.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Noble, was also agreed to:

Resolved, That the committee on public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a land office in the eastern part of the State of Indiana.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Chace, was also agreed to:

Resolved, That the committee on finance be instructed to inquire into the expediency of continuing in force after the present session of Congress, the act passed on the 3d day of March, 1815, entitled "An act further to provide for the collection of duties on imports and tonnage," with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Taylor, was also agreed to:

Resolved, That the committee on the post-office and post-roads be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing the following post-routes, viz: from Corydon, by Shoemakers, Troy, Mount Duval, Darlington and Evansville, to Harmony; from Corydon, by Greenville and Fredericksburg, to Salem; and from Vincennes, by Princeton and Evansville, to Hendersonville, in the State of Kentucky, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The following motion, submitted by Mr. Barbour, was taken up:

Resolved, That the committee on finance be instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the law passed April 19, 1816, entitled "An act to abolish the existing duties on spirits distilled within the United States, and to lay other duties in lieu of those at present imposed on licenses to distillers of spirituous liquors," so far as to exempt the distillation of spirituous liquors exclusively made of fruit from the operation of the act aforesaid.

On the question to agree thereto it was decided in the negative; so this resolution did not pass.

The bill to repeal, in part, the claims law of last session, was read a third time as amended.

A motion was made by Mr. Lacock, to accommodate gentlemen who were opposed to some provisions of this bill, to re-consider the question of ordering the bill to a third reading.

This motion was decided affirmatively, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Ashmun, Barbour, Brown, Chace, Daggett, Dann, Fronentin, Goldsborough, Hanson, Hardin, Howell, Hunter, King, Noble, Ruggles, Sanford, Stokes, Talbot, Tichenor, Williams.—20.

NAYS—Messrs. Campbell, Condit, Gaillard, Lacock, Macon, Mason, N. H., Morrow, Roberts, Smith, Tate, Taylor, Thompson, Troup, Varnum, Wilson—15.

The bill being again open to amendment, a motion was made to strike out the first section of the bill. Whereupon,

The subject was further postponed,
And the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, Feb. 6.—Mr. Archer, from the committee on naval expenditures, reported a bill sup-

plementary to the act concerning the naval establishment; and

Mr. Robertson, from the committee on the public lands, reported a bill to define and enlarge the boundaries of the land district of Edwardsville, in the Illinois Territory.

These bills were severally twice read and committed.

After some introductory remarks on the utility of the object he desired to have inquired into, Mr. Smith, of Va., offered the following resolution, which was agreed to, viz.:

Resolved, That the committee on roads and canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of appointing commissioners to view and mark out a road from the highest point of navigation on the James River, to that of the Great Kanawha, and from thence to Point Pleasant on the Ohio, in Virginia.

The following bills from the Senate, to wit: the bill providing for the division of certain quarter sections in future sales of the public lands; the bill in addition to the act for the relief of George T. Ross and Daniel T. Patterson, and the officers and men lately under their command; the bill to repeal the second section of the act concerning the pay of officers, seaman and marines in the navy of the United States; the bill making appropriations for the payment of certain claims for militia services to the State of Georgia; the bill to appoint additional pension agents; the bill to amend and explain an act giving pensions to the orphans and widows of persons slain in the public or private armed vessels of the United States; the bill for the relief of the widow and children of Arnold H. Dohrman; and the bill granting a pension to Commodore Richard Taylor; were severally read the first and second time, and referred.

The House then took up the amendments reported by the committee of the whole, to the bill to set apart and pledge, as a fund for internal improvement, the bonus and United States' share of the dividends of the national bank.

Mr. Pickering stated some modifications of the amendments which he wished to propose, but not now being in order, he reserved them for the present.

Mr. Taylor, of New-York, proposed to define more precisely the mode of apportioning the fund among the different States by inserting the words "according to the House of Representatives in Congress," which was agreed to; and the question recurred on the amendment as amended; when

Mr. Smith, of Md. moved so to amend the amendment as to apportion the fund which shall accrue, according to the present representation in Congress.

After much discussion, in which Messrs. Hubbard, Gold and Yates took part,

Mr. Smith's motion was negatived by a large majority.

Mr. Stearns moved, that instead of vesting in Congress the power of designating the objects of improvement, it should be given to the State legislatures, under the approbation of the president.

This motion was opposed by Messrs. Sheffey, Pickering, and Grosvenor; when

It was negatived without a division; and

The question was taken on agreeing to the amendment of the committee of the whole House, as amended, and carried—ayes 84.

Mr. Pickering then moved to strike out the first

section, and insert in lieu thereof, two other sections, directing that the fund be set apart for "constructing roads and canals, in order to facilitate, promote, and give security to internal commerce among the several States," and to be applied to constructing, or aiding in the construction of such roads and canals "in each of the States, as Congress, with the consent of each State, shall by law direct," and the proportion to be expended in each State to be in the ratio of its representation at the time of such expenditure, in the most numerous branch of the legislature.

This motion gave rise to an animated debate on the main principle of the bill, which continued until the adjournment; in which Messrs. Gold, Sheffey and Harrison advocated the bill, and Messrs. Hardin, Smith of Md. and Barbour, spoke in opposition.

Friday, Feb. 7.—Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill to increase the compensation of certain collectors of the customs; also, a bill making additional appropriations to defray the expense of the army and militia during the late war: also, a bill making appropriations for the support of the military establishment for the year 1817; which bills were twice read and severally committed.

Mr. Hugh Nelson, from the committee on the judiciary, to which had been recommitted the bill authorizing the appointment of circuit judges, reported a bill for the better administration of justice in the supreme court, and for the appointment of circuit judges; which was read, and committed.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, from the military committee, reported a bill for the relief of certain officers of the staff of Governor Edwards, of the Illinois Territory; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of ways and means, reported the bill from the Senate, for the more prompt settlement of public accounts, with sundry amendments; which were read, and, with the bill, committed to a committee of the whole House.

The Speaker laid before the House the annual report of the commissioners of the sinking fund; which was ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

On motion of Mr. Hahn,

Resolved, That the acting secretary of war be instructed to report to this House, the reasons why the militia fines, incurred by delinquents under the late call of the militia into the service of the United States, are not finally collected.

The following message of the President of the United States, received yesterday, was read and referred to a select committee:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

On comparing the fourth section of the act of Congress, passed March 31, 1814, providing for the indemnification of certain claimants of public lands in the Mississippi Territory, with the articles of agreement and cession between the United States and the State of Georgia, bearing date April 30, 1802, it appears, that the engagements entered into with the claimants, interfere with the rights and interests secured to that State. I recommend to Congress that provision be made by law for payments to the State of Georgia, equal to the amount of Mississippi stock which shall be paid

into the treasury, until the stipulated sum of \$ 1,250,000 shall be completed.

JAMES MADISON.

February 6, 1817.

The bill from the Senate for the relief of Lewis Olmsted was twice read and ordered to a third reading. The engrossed bill supplementary to the act concerning the naval establishment, and the engrossed bill for the division of certain sections of public land, were severally read the third time and passed.

The House then resumed the consideration of the bill, to set apart and pledge, as a fund for internal improvement, the bonus of the United States share of the dividends of the national bank—Mr. King's motion to postpone the bill indefinitely, being still under consideration.

Mr. Pickering spoke in further illustration of his opinions already offered, and in support of the bill.

The debate was resumed on the expediency and constitutionality of the bill; in which Messrs. Pickering, Sheffey, Calhoun, Thomas Wilson, and Yates, spoke in support, and Messrs. Wright and King in opposition to the bill. Mr. Ross, also, without at present fully advocating the bill, spoke against its indefinite postponement.

The question was, about 4 o'clock, taken on postponing the bill indefinitely; tantamount to a rejection—and decided in the negative as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Adams, Archer, Atherton, Barbour, Bassett, Baylies, Bennett, Boss, Bradley, Brown, Bryan, Burwell, Champion, Cilley, Clarke, N. C. Clayton, Cook, Cooper, Crawford, Davenport, Desha, Dickens, Edwards, Forney, Goldsborough, Goodwyn, Hale, Hardin, Hawes, Henderson, Hooks, Hungerford, Jewett, Johnson, Va. King, Langdon, Law, Lyon, Wm. Macay, Mason, McCoy, McLean, Miller, Mills, Hugh Nelson, Theo. M. Nelson, Noyes, Parrin, Piper, Pitkin, Pleasants, Reed, Rice, Roane, Robertson, Root, Ruggles, Smith, Md. Southard, Stearns, Strong, Sturges, Taggart, Tallmadge, Taul, Tyler, Vose, Ward, Ms. Ward, N. Y. Ward, N. J. Wilcox, Williams, Woodward, Wright—74.

NAYS—Messrs. Adgate, Alexander, Baer, Baker, Bateman, Bettis, Birdsell, Birdseye, Brookbridge, Brooks, Cady, Caldwell, Calhoun, Chappell, Clark, N. Y. Clementine, Condict, Creighton, Crucheron, Culpepper, Darlington, Fletcher, Forsyth, Gaston, Gold, Griffin, Greenover, Hahn, Hall, Hammond, Harrison, Heister, Huger, Hubert, Ingham, Irving, N. Y. Jackson, Johnson, Ky. Kent, Kerr, Va. Kilbourn, Lewis, Little, Love, Lovett, Lowndes, Lumpkin, Lyle, W. P. Macay, Marsh, McKee, Middleton, Minor, Moffit, Moore, Mosely, Murfree, Jen. Nelson, Newton, Ormsby, Peter, Pickens, Pickering, Powell, Randolph, Rose, Savage, Schenck, Sharp, Sheffey, Smith, Pen. Smith, Va. Taylor, N. Y. Taylor, S. C. Telfair, Thomas, Townsend, Wallace, Waudover, Wheaton, Whiteside, Wade, Wilkin, Willoughby, Thos. Wilson, Wm. Wilson, Yancey, Yates—35.

The question then recurred on Mr. Calhoun's motion to amend Mr. Pickering's amendment, by striking therefrom the words "*with the consent of the State,*" and lost by a large majority.

Mr. Pickering's amendment (as stated in the proceedings of yesterday) was then agreed to without a division.

Mr. Kilbourn proposed to add a section providing substantially, that any State might, under the direction of Congress, apply any part of its portion of the fund to the purposes intended by the act, in another State, if requested by resolution of the legislature, wishing so to apply part of its portion.

This motion was objected to by Mr. Calhoun, only because he believed the bill already contained by a fair construction, the power proposed by the amendment.

The motion was negatived without a division, and

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

The envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of his most christian majesty, having renewed, under special instructions from his government, the claim of the representative of Caron De Beaumarchais, for one million of livres, which were debited to him in the settlement of his accounts with the United States; I lay before Congress copies of the memoir on that subject, addressed by the said envoy to the Secretary of State.

Considering that the sum, of which the million of livres in question made a part, was a gratuitous grant from the French government to the United States, and the declaration of that government that that part of the grant was put in the hands of M. De Beaumarchais as its agent, not as the agent of the United States, and was duly accounted for by him to the French government: considering, also, the concurring opinions of two attorneys general of the United States, that the said debt was not legally sustainable in behalf of the United States, I recommend the case to the favourable attention of the Legislature, whose authority alone can finally decide on it.

JAMES MADISON.

January 31, 1817.

Saturday, Jan. 8.—Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill authorizing the secretary of the treasury to cause payment to be made of certain alien duties; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Thomas Wilson, from the committee on roads and canals, reported on that subject the following resolution:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to take measures for making, as far as practicable, and report to this House at the next and every subsequent session of Congress, such roads, canals, and improvements in water courses, as are required in a general system of inland navigation and intercourse throughout the extent of the United States, and the territories thereof, best adapted to facilitate the intercourse necessary for personal, commercial, and military purposes.

The resolution being read, was committed to a committee of the whole House.

Mr. Atherton laid the following resolution on the table, where it lies one day of course:

Resolved, That the following be adopted as an addition to the standing rules of the House: It shall be the duty of the committee on public expenditures, to examine whether any offices under the laws of the United States, have become useless or unnecessary, to report from time to time on the expediency of modifying or abolishing the same; also, to examine into the pay and emoluments of all offices under the laws of the United States, and to report from time to time such a reduction or increase thereof as a just economy of the public resources may require.

On motion of Mr. Chappell,

Resolved, That the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims be instructed to inquire into the propriety of altering the present mode of paying invalid pensions, so far as it regards those pensions which have not been demanded within a reasonable time.

Mr. Dickens offered the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That the committee of ways and

means be instructed to report a bill to repeal so much of the acts now in force as lays a duty on salt.

On the question of considering the said resolution, it was decided in the *negative*—ayes 51, noes 56.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. offered the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the Secretary of State to publish the laws of the United States in any number of papers he may think proper, not exceeding six in each State.

The resolution was agreed to—ayes 52, noes 43.

Mr. King submitted the following resolution:

Whereas a bill was yesterday ordered by the House of Representatives to be engrossed and read a third time this day, appropriating one million and a half of dollars of the public money, and the United States' share of the dividends in the national bank, for twenty years, on seven millions of dollars, owned by them therein, and on which they are now paying an annual interest of 350,000 dollars, for constructing roads and canals; and whereas it is desirable that some part of the public treasure, drawn from the people of this country, should, particularly in times of general distress, be applied to their relief, and to objects connected with their immediate, best and highest interest: Therefore,

Resolved, That there shall be appropriated out of any money in the treasury of the United States, not otherwise appropriated, two millions of dollars; to be apportioned among the several States, territories, and the District of Columbia, in proportion to their free population, at the last enumeration; one million thereof to be immediately applied by the governors of the several States and territories, and, in the District of Columbia, by the several corporations of Washington, Alexandria and Georgetown, to the support of the poor and in aid of the funds of such humane and charitable institutions, as, in the opinions of such governors and corporations, may stand most in need thereof, the other million of dollars to be applied by the legislatures of the several States and territories, and in the District of Columbia by the Congress of the United States, to the promotion of education, and the advancement of religion and morality—or in aid of the funds of such Bible and missionary societies, as may be selected. And that the committee of ways and means be instructed to bring in a bill for the above purposes.

The question being put on considering the said resolution, it was decided in the *negative*—very few rising in its favor.

Mr. Goldsborough, after some prefatory observations, introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of modifying the law passed the 15th Dec. 1814, to provide additional revenue, &c. so as to provide for the annual valuation of carriages liable to tax or duty imposed by said law.

The House having agreed to consider the resolution,

Mr. Lowndes made a few remarks in opposition to the modification proposed in the tax, and was replied to by Mr. Goldsborough; when

The resolution was agreed to by a small majority.

The bill from the Senate for the relief of Lewis

Gimstead, and the engrossed bill for the relief of Park Holland, were severally read the third time and passed.

The engrossed bill to set apart and pledge, as a fund for internal improvement, the bonus and United States' share of the dividends of the national bank, was read the third time, and the question stated, “shall the bill pass?”

Mr. Randolph rose and spoke nearly three hours in opposition.

Mr. Sheffey stated the reasons which would prevent his voting for the bill.

Mr. Calhoun advocated the bill, and replied to Mr. Randolph and others.

Mr. Smith, of Md. and Mr. Wright successively renewed their opposition to the bill; and

Mr. Calhoun again spoke in its support.

The question was then taken on the passage of the bill, and decided in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Adgate, Alexander, Avery, Baker, Batterman, Betts, Birdsall, Birdseye, Breckinridge, Brooks, Cady, Caldwell, Calhoun, Chappell, Clark, N. Y. Clemenian, Comstock, Condict, Conner, Creighton, Crocheron, Crupper, Darlington, Findley, Forsyth, Gaston, Glasgow, Gold, Griffin, Grosvenor, Hahn, Hall, Hammond, Harrison, Heister, Hendricks, Hopkinson, Huger, Hulbert, Ingham, Irving, N. Y. Jackson, Johnson, Ky. Kent, Kerr, Va. Little, Love, Lovett, Lumpkin, Lyle, W. P. Maclay, Middleton, Milnor, Moffitt, Moore, Murfree, Jer. Nelson, Newton, Ormsby, Peter, Piekins, Pickering, Powell, Ross, Savage, Schenck, Sharp, Smith, Penn, Smith, Va. Tate, Taylor, N. Y. Taylor, S.C. Telfair, Townsend, Wallace, Webster, Wendover, Whiteside, Wilde, Wilkin, Willoughby, Thos. Wilson, Wm. Wilson, Yancy, Yates—86.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Archer, Atherton, Baer, Barbour, Bassett, Baylies, Bennett, Blount, Boss, Bradbury, Brown, Bryan, Burwell, Cannon, Carr, Ms. Champion, Ciley, Clark, N. C. Clayton, Cook, Cooper, Crawford, Davencourt, Dasha, Dickens, Edwards, Fletcher, Goldsborough, Goodwyn, Hale, Hardin, Hawes, Hooks, Hungerford, Irwin, Penn, Jewett, Johnson, Va. King, Laugdon, Law, Lowndes, Lyons, Wm. McClay, Marsh, Mason, M'Coy, M'Lean, Miller, Mills, Hugh Nelson, Thos. M. Nelson, Noyes, Parrish, Piper, Pitkin, Peasants, Randolph, Reed, Rice, Roane, Robertson, Root, Ruggles, Smith, Md. Southard, Stearns, Strong, Stuart, Sturges, Taggart, Talmadge, Taul, Thomas, Tyler, Vose, Ward, Ms. Ward, N. Y. Ward, N. J. Wheaton, Wilcox, Williams, Woodward, Wright—84.

So the bill was sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Monday, Feb. 10.—Mr. Nelson, from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill to provide more effectually for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States, and for other purposes; which, being a long bill, was twice read by its title, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. M'Kee, from a select committee, reported a bill transferring the duties of the commissioner of loans, to the Bank of the United States, and to abolish the offices of commissioners of loans.

Mr. Pleasants reported a bill regulating the pay and emoluments of pursers and midshipmen of the navy, and of the medical staff of the army of the United States.

These bills were twice read and committed.

Mr. Ingham, from the select committee to whom the subject was referred, reported a bill to regulate and fix the compensation of clerks and messengers; which was twice read by its title, and committed.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the unfavorable report of the committee of commerce and manufactures, on the petition of Anthony Buck, who prays to be relieved from the payment of an embargo bond, into which, by false representations, Mr. Buck was induced to enter for the captain of an eastern vessel, and which became forfeited by the misconduct of said captain in violating the embargo. This report gave rise to a long debate, which ended in reversing the re-

port of the committee of commerce and manufactures, and directing the committee to report a bill for the relief of the petitioner.

A joint resolution from the Senate, for appointing a committee on the part of each House to ascertain and report a mode of examining the votes for president and vice-president of the United States, and of notifying the persons elected of their election, was taken up and agreed to.

The bill from the Senate to repeal the second section of an act concerning the pay of officers, seamen and marines, in the service of the United States, was read a third time and passed.

The bill making provision respecting American captives during the late war, passed through a committee of the whole.

The bill for the relief of certain sufferers during the late war with Great Britain (appropriating the sum of \$40,000 dollars for the relief of the sufferers on the Niagara frontier) was next taken up in committee of the whole.

Mr. Archer moved to amend this bill so as to include the case of losses on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. He referred to the cases of the towns of Havre de Grace, Georgetown and Fredericktown, all on the bay shore, in which depredations had been made by the enemy, by conflagrating private property; which cases he considered not materially variant in principle from those which came under this bill. Although the sufferers of this character had no legal claim on the government, they had a claim of justice; and wherever a government had the ability to pay such claims, it was its duty to satisfy them. The ability of our government could not now be questioned, since it had lately made liberal appropriations for internal improvement, and objects not of necessity, &c.

This motion gave rise to a debate which continued until the usual hour of adjournment.

Mr. Robertson moved to add to the bill a new section, providing that all other claims in all parts of the United States, depending on the same principle as the claims embraced in this bill, should be settled in the same proportion, and in the same manner as the claims already enumerated.

Mr. Forsyth moved to strike out the first section of the bill, and insert in lieu thereof a proposition for appropriating a million of dollars for the relief of persons in different parts of the country, who have suffered losses in consequence of military occupation by the forces of the United States, to be distributed in proportion to the loss sustained by each individual, as compared with the residue of his property, the poorest individual to receive the largest sum in proportion to his loss.

This motion, as well as that of Mr. Robertson, before noticed, were declared not receivable until after Mr. Archer's motion was decided.

Mr. Archer's motion was supported by himself and Mr. Wright, and was opposed by Messrs. Hulbert, Taylor of N. Y. Clay and Calhoun, not from opposition to the class of claims embraced in the amendment, but on the ground that the claims from the Niagara were peculiar, and had been already sifted and specially examined.

Mr. Robertson and Mr. Forsyth spoke in favor of general in preference to particular provision on this subject; and Mr. T. M. Nelson and Mr. Harrison spoke on the military question of the legality, according to the laws of war, of the conflagration of Buffalo, &c. by the enemy.

The committee rose without deciding any question; and the House adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 11.—Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of ways and means, who were instructed by a resolution to inquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the duty on carriages, &c. as imposes a duty on carriages and harness not exceeding in value \$ 100, made a report thereon unfavourable thereto, and

Mr. Lowndes, from the same committee, made a report on the expediency they were instructed to inquire into, of repealing or modifying the act laying duties on licenses to retailers, adverse thereto.

These reports were ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Newton, from the committee on commerce and manufactures, reported a bill for erecting a light house on the west chop of Holmes' Hole, in Massachusetts; also a bill to increase the duty on iron imported in bars and bolts; and a bill for the relief of Anthony Buck.

Mr. Hall from the committee appointed on the subject, reported a bill authorizing the payment of money to the State of Georgia, under the articles of agreement and cession between that State and the United States.

Mr. Pickering, from the committee to whom had been referred the memorial of the American society for colonizing the free people of colour in the United States, made a report thereon, accompanied by a joint resolution concerning the abolition of the traffic in slaves and colonizing the free people of colour, on the continent of Africa.

Which bills and resolution were severally read and committed.

Mr. Jackson, from the committee yesterday appointed on the subject, reported the following resolution, which was read, considered, and agreed to by the House.

"Resolved, That the two Houses shall assemble in the chamber of the House of Representatives on Wednesday next at twelve o'clock: that two persons be appointed tellers on the part of this House, to make a list of the votes as they shall be delivered: that the result shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall announce the state of the votes, and the persons elected to the two Houses assembled as aforesaid, which shall be deemed a declaration of the persons elected President and Vice President, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the journals of the two Houses."

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Pitkin were appointed tellers on the part of this House.

On motion of Mr. Jackson,

Ordered, That when the members of the Senate appear to-morrow, in the chamber of this House, the President shall be conducted to the chair of the Speaker; and that the clerk of this House inform the Senate of these proceedings.

On motion of Mr. Kilbourn the committee on the post-office and post-roads were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing post routes from Granville to Columbus, from London to Springfield, and from Newark by New Lebanon to Lancaster, in Ohio.

Mr. Williams offered the following resolution, for consideration:

"Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the act of Congress, passed at the last session, as prohibits distillers who have obtained a license, from retailing a less quantity of spirits than one gallon."

The House agreed, ayes 62, nays 60, to consider the resolution, when

The question on adopting the resolution was negatived by a large majority.

On motion of Mr. Langdon, the committee of commerce and manufactures were instructed to inquire into the expediency of so altering the revenue laws, as not to oblige the vessels navigating Lake Champlain, to enter and take a clearance at the custom houses in the district of Champlain, in the State of New-York, and the district of Vermont, where goods are to be landed in each district.

On motion of Mr. Wilde the committee on the judiciary were instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing to the judge of the sixth circuit court of the United States, a sum equal to the salary of the judge of the district court of South-Carolina, for the term of one year, during which time the said circuit judge was compelled by law to perform the duties of the judge of the said district court.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the secretary of the treasury, transmitting the annual statements of the amounts collected under the several acts laying direct taxes, &c. together with the amount of compensation allowed to the officers employed in the collection thereof; and also, the compensation received by the principal and assistant assessors; which was ordered to lie on the table.

The bill providing for the reimbursement of moneys paid for the ransom of American captives from the Indians, was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Condict in the chair, on the bill appropriating 340,000 dollars for the relief of certain sufferers on the Niagara frontier, in the late war; Mr. Archer's motion to amend the bill, so as to include the losses on the Chesapeake bay, being under consideration:

Mr. Hungerford moved to amend the amendment, by inserting after Chesapeake bay, the words "and its waters," so as to include losses in the Northern Neck, &c., of Virginia. Mr. Archer received the amendment as a part of his motion.

Mr. Clark, of New-York, required the reading of various documents, depositions, certificates, &c. illustrating and certifying the nature and character of the losses sustained by individuals on the Niagara frontier, and then entered into a defence of the claims of the said sufferers to relief.

Mr. T. M. Nelson replied at length to Mr. Clark, arguing that no law existed for billeting troops in the houses of the citizens, or their occupation for military stores, &c. and that all such occupations were of course paid for; which fact he also vouches from his personal knowledge, and that the use of the houses referred to was not only paid for, but at an enormous rent. Mr. N. read sundry official letters, &c. to establish his views of the legality of the claim of the sufferers, to the laws of war, &c.

Mr. Pickering was opposed to the bill in any shape which it could assume, because Congress had already authorized a strict inquiry into all losses by the late war, and that the conflagration of the Niagara frontier was an act of retaliation for burning the town of Newark, which was unauthorized in civil warfare, and unnecessary.

Mr. Harrison defended the destruction of Newark by the American troops, and had no doubt

that, if Mr. Pickering was to view the situation of that town, and its relation to fort Niagara, he would approve the burning of it; and Mr. H. was willing to stake his military reputation on the propriety of that measure, as a military one which every military man would sanction.

Mr. Pickering replied, that the destruction of Newark was alleged to be in defence of Fort George and not Fort Niagara.

Mr. Archer again supported his amendment, and replied to the arguments of those who condemned the burning of Newark, which he said was done with a double view of defending Fort George, and ultimately Fort Niagara.

The question was at length taken on Mr. Archer's motion, and decided in the negative.

After going through the bill, and making some immaterial amendments—

Mr. Forsyth moved the amendment he yesterday suggested, to strike out the first section of the bill, and insert in lieu thereof the appropriation of a million of dollars, &c.

The question was taken thereon without debate, and decided in the negative without division.

Mr. Forsyth then, as he doubted whether this bill, after all the time it should consume, had a majority in its favor, and for the purpose, therefore, of saving time, by at once trying the sense of the House on it—moved to strike out the first section—in effect to destroy it.

This motion was negatived by a considerable majority; when

The committee rose and reported the bill to the House.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

FOREIGN.

From New-York, we derive the information that London news have been received there to the 21st November, which afford but few interesting articles. The most important are the following.

London, Nov. 21.—The Madrid Gazette of the 28th ult. states that the government of Spain is about to send to the American Republic a Spanish General on a special mission; the purpose is to demand explanations from the United States, respecting the support given to the South American patriots.

Letters From St. Pierre, Martinique, of the 3d January, mention shocks of Earthquakes having been felt there on the 9th and 23d of December—700 troops arrived there from France on the 2d Jan. The fever still raging. Flour \$20; Indian corn \$9 per barrel, say 3 1-8 bushels.

Extracts of letters from Naples.

"On our arrival at Naples the government expected nothing else than an attack. Transports were sent for additional forces, which returned full of troops, convoyed by a 74 and some frigates. Yet the people seemed to like us very much, for the first boat that went ashore was received by a great crowd, crying 'huzza, bono America.'

"Our ship answers our expectations—she sails remarkably well, and is very stiff. There are several English and Dutch 74's and 80's here—the Washington looks like a picture among them.

"While we lay at Messina the Princess of Wales arrived there in a merchant ship from Egypt. Our commanders all went to pay their respects, and Captain Perry serenaded her with his band. She was compelled to leave the place without going on shore, as the ship could not obtain pratique.

"There was a considerable disturbance at the theatre last evening, on account of some American citizens not taking their hats off when they played 'God save the king.' Our officers that were present all rose and took off their hats; on which the music struck up 'Hail Columbia,' when all the company in the house rose and took off their hats; which was highly honorable to both parties.

"Last evening Governor Don gave a ball to the officers of the American and Dutch fleets, and on Thursday next Lady Don gives a ball to the officers of the United States' ship Washington."

It appears from the French papers that the free circulation of grain has been obstructed in some parts of France by the local authorities—probably on account of partial fears of dearth in their particular districts. The minister of the interior has, in consequence, issued a circular to the prefects, strictly prohibiting all such obstructions or restrictions, as preventing the abundance of one district from supplying the deficiencies of another. The circular states that every necessary measure had been taken to prevent the conveyance of grain out of the country, either by sea or land.

DOMESTIC.

Edward Wyer, Esq. late Consul at Riga, has been appointed Consul of the U. S. at Hamburg.

Isaac H. Williams, Esq. is elected Governor of New-Jersey, in the place of Mahlon Dickerson, Esq. lately appointed Senator to Congress.

Nicholas Van Dyke, Esq. has been chosen, by the Legislature of Delaware, a Senator of the United States for six years, commencing from the 4th of March next, vice Mr. Wells.

Wm. C. C. Claiborne, Esq. has been duly elected by both houses of the legislature of Louisiana, senator to congress, in the room of J. Brown, Esq.

The election has recently taken place in Massachusetts for the five Congressional Districts in which, owing to scattered votes, there had been no election. Zabdiel Sampson, republican, is elected from Plymouth district, now represented by a federalist. In Essex North, there is again no choice, and the same is expected of the 5th and 6th Eastern districts. From Barnstable nothing definitive has been heard.

At a meeting of the directors of the branch bank of the United States, in this city, on Feb. 6, Richard Cutts, Esq. was unanimously elected president of the bank.

At a meeting on Saturday, Feb. 8, James Davidson, Esq. was appointed teller, Richmond Johnson, book-keeper, Wm. B. Williams, discount clerk, and Michael Nurse, notary to the bank.

George Newton, Esq. is appointed president of the branch bank of the United States at Norfolk. Extract of a letter from a gentleman at St. Louis, on the Missouri, dated Dec. 23, 1816.

"The crops here have been abundant, and quality very fine; wheat weighs from 62 to 66 lbs. per bushel. Corn is very yellow and hard; some present prices here are, corn 37½ and wheat \$1 per bushel.

"This country is rapidly settling, and from the fertility of its soil must soon make the industrious farmer rich.

"A farmer in this vicinity actually cut 700 bushels of wheat without sowing one grain: the scatterings from the preceding harvest seeded the ground so as to produce the above crop."

Saving Banks.—Noah Brown and others, of the city of New-York, having formed an establishment under the above title in that city, for the purpose

of receiving, on deposit, small sums of money from the labouring class, have petitioned the legislature of that State for an act of incorporation. The object of this bank is to encourage the labouring poor who are able to earn something more than may meet the demands of their current necessities whilst in health, to lay up a small portion of their earnings, until it shall increase to an amount sufficient to be turned to some useful purpose in commencing a small business, or to provide a fund on which to draw in the day of sickness.

Interesting fact.—On the 7th instant, a family of eight persons reached New-York, on their migratory passage from the District of Maine to the more fertile soil of Tennessee. The manner they entered the city and passed the streets was such as to awaken curiosity and sympathy in the citizens.

The father, about 45 years of age, with an honest countenance, somewhat depressed by fatigue, drew a hand cart, containing all his effects, chattels, and provisions, and two children of an age too feeble to travel; behind followed the elder children and the wife, bearing in her arms a robust infant seven months old. In this manner they had already travelled more than 400 miles, and had yet to perform about double that distance. The circumstance drew crowds in their train, and on reaching the corner of Pearl and Water streets, their progress was fairly impeded. We were, however, much gratified at the liberality of the citizens, who contributed in a manner that will enable the emigrants to pursue their journey with lighter hearts; their whole appearance will ensure them hospitality on the route."

The same family, having started on their journey next morning, were again surrounded by a crowd at the junction of Pearl and Water-streets, and were again presented with money to support and cheer them on their journey. One gentleman gave a ten and another a twenty dollar note.

Official statement of the Votes for President and Vice President.

	Presid't.	Vice President.
New-Hampshire,	8	James Monroe, Virginia.
Maine,	22	Rufus King, New-York.
Rhode-Island,	4	Daniel D. Tompkins, New-York.
Connecticut,	9	John E. Howard, Maryland.
Vermont,	8	James Ross, Pennsylvania.
New-York,	29	John Marshall, Virginia.
New-Jersey,	8	Robert G. Harper, Maryland.
Pennsylvania,	25	
Delaware,	3	
Maryland,	8	
Virginia,	25	
North-Carolina,	15	
South-Carolina,	11	
Georgia,	8	
Kentucky,	12	
Tennessee,	8	
Ohio,	8	
Louisiana,	3	
Indiana,	3	
	183	34
	183	82
	5	4
		3